



Ruth Ellen Getzen

August 10, 1933 - February 1, 2023

Sarasota – Ruth Ellen Getzen, 89, died on February 1, 2023. She was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 10, 1933, to Ernest and Ruth Wylie. She graduated from the University of Illinois, where she studied modern dance and met William Getzen, the love of her life. They married in 1955 and moved to Sarasota in 1959 when Bill started practicing law. They raised children Linda Getzen, Sandra Alger (Herb Yancer), and James Getzen (Minta). Ruth was a loving grandmother to Shawn Alger, Kasey Wesche (Tom), Bailey Alger, Wyatt Getzen, and Will Getzen.

Ruth was a devoted member of Church of the Palms-Presbyterian. An avid gardener and painter, she was happiest tending the flowers and plants in her lovely garden. In her younger years, she loved golf, croquet, tennis, traveling, and skiing. When her girls were young, Ruth became a Girl Scout Leader for many years and is fondly remembered by many girls whose lives were wonderfully impacted by Ruth's guidance. She upheld and exemplified all the values the Girl Scouts hold dear and was a lifelong member and past President of the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida. Several Girl Scout leaders formed a social group to share ideas, give support and friendship, go camping, and mostly share lots and lots of laughs. They called themselves the S'Mores. These were some of the best women you'd ever want to meet and were a very important part of Ruth's life. In the 80s, Ruth and Bill built a mountain home at Wildcat Cliffs Country Club in North Carolina, where they

made many lifelong friends. Her family treasures fond memories of that special place where her children and grandchildren would come to visit and share fun times. This is also where Ruth discovered her love and remarkable talent for painting. She created beautiful art. Her children and friends have many of her paintings hanging proudly in their homes.

She is survived by her dear husband of 67 years, Bill, children, and grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents and brother James Wylie. Ruth was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and cherished friend. So many of us mourn the loss of this kind and gentle lady.

Graveside service will be private. A memorial service will be held at Church of the Palms next month at noon on Friday, March 10, when grandchildren can be present. Memorial gifts may be made to Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, 4780 Cattlemen Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 10. 12:00 PM (ET)

Church of the Palms
3224 Bee Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34239

Tribute Wall

BB

“ *What an honor it is to have known Ruth, even for a short time. Such a kind soul, always welcoming and generous with her smile, she had an ease and a warmth that I will always remember.*

Bill Birdsong - February 05, 2023 at 02:12 PM

JT

“ *Ruth was a wonderfully kind and considerate neighbor for us. Our condolences to her family. She will be missed very much by all who knew her.*

God Rest her Soul. Jim & Susan Tollerton

Jim Tollerton - February 05, 2023 at 08:20 AM

LC

“ *Ruth Getzen was an outstanding wife, mother, grandmother and to me, beloved friend, neighbor and Girl Scout Leader. Growing up as a neighbor was a blast with a plethora of things to do. There were endless board game marathons, a backyard cabana completely stocked with a lovely pool and pool table, an old fashioned tree swing, composting and bunnies! 🐰 Mrs. Getzen was the ultimate hostess and always had plenty of goldfish we'd pilfer from the "grown up" room. Then there was Family Reunion Weekend at Wildcat where you'd always have her volunteering to paint my children's faces. The memories go on and on. A wonderful life lived*

!!

Leigh Crews - February 04, 2023 at 07:11 PM

KH

“ *Mrs. Getzen was my Girl Scout Leader for many years and is one of the kindest, sweetest people I have ever known. I remember our families traveling together to Wisconsin back when I was a young child, and all the fun we had I also remember amazing times at their home in North Carolina Please accept my heartfelt condolences for your huge loss. Karen Holmes-Brown*

Karen Holmes-Brown - February 03, 2023 at 02:56 PM